

The bill, as proposed, would further divide and attenuate the safety efforts of the military departments in that it includes no provision for such important elements as personal protective equipment and clothing and fails to take into account varying technical requirements, research needs, and other matters now inherent in the safety programs of the military departments.

The safety programs of the military departments have steadily advanced for the past several years with increasing benefits in the conservation of personnel and materiel resources. It is considered that any unjustified division of responsibility or diversification of interest and objectives would interfere with continued progress.

This report has been coordinated within the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

LEWIS S. THOMPSON,

*Special Assistant for Manpower, Personnel, and Reserve Forces.*

---

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,

*Washington, D.C., April 25, 1960.*

HON. JOHN L. MCCLELLAN,  
*Chairman, Committee on Government Operations,*  
*U.S. Senate.*  
*Washington, D.C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your letter of May 13, 1959, requesting our views with respect to S. 1846, a bill to facilitate the discovery and recovery by the States of unclaimed personal property in the custody of Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

In general, S. 1846 would require Federal agencies to examine at least once each fiscal year all records in their custody or control with a view toward locating all unclaimed tangible and intangible personal property in their possession and transmitting to the Administrator of General Services certain specified data thereon. Where eligibility is established such property could either escheat to the States or the States could become custodians of the property under certain prescribed rules and regulations.

We are opposed to this legislation on the basis that all major agencies, and particularly the Administrator of General Services, would have placed upon them an extremely heavy and burdensome workload in connection with a function that appears to us to be both legally and administratively objectionable. Such legislation would require agencies to attempt to uncover or discover potential, unknown, and perhaps questionable claims against the Government, upon many of which the statute of limitations would have run. In the process of searching for such unclaimed property there would come to light property or potential claims that may not meet the definition of unclaimed property for purposes of this legislation yet it would be necessary to make a detailed review of all such cases to definitely ascertain whether eligibility requirements have or have not been met. Since untold num-